

IN THE UNITED STATES
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.116

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Non-final Office Action mailed October 31, 2006, Applicants respectfully request entry of the following Amendment and consideration of the Response on the merits. Applicants believe that this Amendment and Response is timely because it is being filed within the three month shortened statutory period for reply, ending on January 31, 2007, as set forth in the Office Action.

Amendments to the Claims begin on page 2 of this paper;

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 9 of this paper; and

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 10 of this paper.